

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2022

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: October 20, 2022
TIME: 2:31 PM

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Julie Lemay.

In keeping with Chapter 20, of the Acts of 2021, the extension of the remote participation portion of Governor Baker's Executive Order from March 12, 2020; - "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" – The Board of Health Meeting of August 29, 2022 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those present were Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Member; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

There was no public participation.

Bruegger's Bagels Nuisance Violations Hearing. Tye Ali, Bruegger's District Manager, and Troy Duarte, Bruegger's Belmont Store Manager were present for the Hearing.

Diana Ekman provided a summary of the violations:

- There exists a complicated rodent situation surrounding the Leonard Street neighborhood. Bruegger's dumpster area needs better maintenance, including clean up of the surrounding area and keeping the dumpster lid closed.
- Health Department staff also responded to a complaint from a member of the public concerning the uncleanliness of the establishment. Health Department staff confirmed this following an inspection. Also brought to the attention of staff during this inspection were several facility maintenance issues including a hand sink that was leaking, intermittent hot water, and flooring disrepair.
- Julie Lemay said this matter was brought to the attention of the Board of Health several months ago. Consistent effort is required to control this area's rodent population.
- Donna David said this is a very frustrating situation. Health Department staff have done much work to assist Bruegger's with the violations. She is very concerned about the plumbing, specifically the handwashing sink. She is happy to hear a recent report that a positive movement has been made to clean up.
- Diana acknowledged progress has been made but there is more to do.
- Tye Ali confirmed two new dumpsters have been delivered, and pick up from the rubbish company will be increased to three times per week.
- Tye Ali also said the plumbing issue has been resolved.
- Tye Ali said customers should be pleased with the cleanliness and fresh paint job.
- Troy Duarte is sending hourly photos to Mr. Ali, showing the closed dumpster lid.
- Board members encouraged Tye Ali and Troy Duarte to keep the momentum going and to let Health Department staff know when the repairs are complete.

The following Order was issued by the Board of Health to Bruegger's:

14 days to complete the following items:

- Repair concrete gaps, install new dumpster pad
- Increase dumpster pick up to 3 times per week
- Keep dumpster lids closed at all times
- Replace dumpsters

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- Provide updated pest control reports
- Complete deep cleaning and submit a cleaning management plan to Health Department
- Repair leak at handwashing sink
- Inspection and/or repairs to hot water heater by a licensed plumber. Provide documentation to Health Department.
- 60 days to replace cracked flooring near baking/kettle area

Comella's, 11 Brighton Street, Variance Request – Management of Fats, Oil, Grease Regulation:

- Diana Ekman will discuss this matter with the Plumbing Inspector tomorrow.
- Julie Lemay asked if there is an issue that prevents Comella's from installing an exterior grease trap.
- Dr. Allen asked if the grease trap is the same set up as the current Leonard Street location.
- The Board deferred the Vote to approve or deny the Variance Request until the next meeting.

The Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2022 passed by a vote of 3-0.

Lindsey Sharp provided the following COVID data:

- 102 cases in August, 30 cases through September 19th.
- The CDC Community Level for Middlesex County flip flops between the Medium and Low category. The link to check the COVID Community Level is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>
- David Neylon included a report with updated COVID-19 guidance from DESE, DPH, and CDC.
- David also provided a summary of other reportable diseases in the combined report. There was one confirmed case of Salmonellosis, and two confirmed cases of Tuberculosis.
- Sarah Koolsbergen asked the Board of Health members what the status of instituting an indoor mask mandate is.
- Julie Lemay said the Board's position has not changed, but of course, high risk individuals are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Dr. Adrienne Allen said CDC guidance does not include a requirement to wear a mask.
- Sarah Koolsbergen added the vaccine is not a magic shield, we're not at that place yet. She feels people are fatigued about COVID. She asked if there will be another clinic for COVID / Monkeypox / Polio vaccine.
- Diana told Sarah Koolsbergen there may be 2 clinics in October, 10/2 and 10/6, for COVID and flu vaccination.
- Donna David acknowledged the Board understands Sarah Koolsbergen's concerns. Mask mandates for schools would be dependent upon certain benchmarks. As far as vaccine for Polio, one should ask their doctor.

The Receipts and Financial reports were reviewed.

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The Director/Assistant Director/Public Health Nurse/Health Agent report was reviewed:

- Update to the Attorney General's office receivership filing: The Hearing was held September 14th. The Judge set a timeline for roof and heating repairs. The next Hearing is scheduled October 6th.
- The owner of a property infested with cockroaches has contracted with a pest control service.
- Health Department staff received photos of hoarding conditions of a property following a recent Fire Department response at the property. Staff issued an Order letter to the property owner. Julie asked if the declutter group facilitated by Janet Amdur continues to meet. Janet will report on this in next month's report.
- Health Department staff have mailed many rodent letters following 5 complaints in various Belmont neighborhoods. It was suggested that a map be posted to show rat hot spots.
- The High School Building Committee will not pursue efforts to use Clay Pit Pond for field irrigation. They will connect to MWRA.
- Fall Town Meeting will be held remotely. A quick decision was needed, as such, the Board Chair was asked to provide a final recommendation.
- Social media posts for the month of August were reviewed.
- At a September 9th meeting with the Chairs of the SC and BOH, School Superintendent, and Health Director, COVID-19 protocol was developed for communication to the school community.
- Staff are affixing stickers (QR code to scan updated expiration date) to over 13,000 rapid test kits provided by the Governor's office. The tests will be available for free to the community.
- Donna David sent goose poop information to members and staff. This will be reviewed when Suzanne, Animal Care and Control Officer, returns to work.

Veterans Services Report was reviewed. Bob is working on the final details for the Veteran's Day Breakfast. The Belmont Hill B-Flats will perform, and Donna David will attend!

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie C. Lemay, Chair